



# How to Qualify as a Candidate in 2019

The Democracy Voucher Program is a new way for City Council District candidates to receive public campaign funding.

The Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (SEEC) distributes four vouchers valued at \$25 each to eligible Seattle residents each election year. Residents assign vouchers to participating candidates to redeem for dollars.

To qualify for the program, candidates must file required paperwork and follow program rules. Candidates are encouraged to complete a training on campaign disclosure rules with the SEEC.

## STEP 1: REGISTER AS A CANDIDATE & FILE REPORTS

Within two weeks of becoming a candidate, the candidate must file the following reports:

1. **PDC Form C-1** – File campaign registration with the PDC (e-file or paper file) and SEEC (e-file)
2. **PDC Form F-1** – File the State Personal Financial Affairs Statement with PDC (e-file or paper file)
3. **SEEC Form F-1** – File City Personal Financial Affairs Statement with Seattle City Clerk (paper file)

*PDC: WA State Public Disclosure Commission*

Candidates must also sign and submit a program pledge after July 2, 2018 and before May 31, 2019.

## STEP 2: COLLECT QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS

The SEEC provides **qualifying contribution collection forms** candidates may use when collecting qualifying contributions. Candidates running for a City Council District seat must collect at least 150 qualifying contributions between \$10 and \$250 and an accompanying validation, such as a signature, from Seattle residents who are eligible to contribute to campaigns. Half (75) of the 150 qualifying contributions for the City Council District position must come from residents of the district.

## STEP 3: SUBMIT QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTION DOCUMENTS TO THE SEEC

Candidates must itemize all qualifying contributions and file **C-3 Forms** electronically with the PDC and SEEC. Contributions must be deposited within 5 business days of receipt and a **C-3** must be filed for each deposit. The SEEC will review **C-3** filings for timely and accurate reporting and confirm that qualifying contributions correspond to the names and addresses reported.

Once the minimum number of contributions are verified, the SEEC will certify the candidate as a qualified participant in the program.

## STEP 4: COLLECT DEMOCRACY VOUCHERS

Candidates who have pledged can collect vouchers. Campaigns may use representatives to collect vouchers, as long as those representatives have been registered with the SEEC.

## STEP 5: REDEEM DEMOCRACY VOUCHERS

After validating assigned vouchers, the SEEC releases voucher proceeds to campaigns at least twice per month.

## STEP 6: MEET ONGOING PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. File a **Declaration of Candidacy** during candidate filing week, May 13-17, 2019, with King County Elections.
2. Comply with campaign disclosure reporting requirements.
3. Honor campaign contribution and spending limits.
  - a. Candidates may request release from the program contribution and/or spending limits if oppositional spending goes beyond program spending limits.

Democracy Voucher Program Contribution and Expenditure Limits	City Council District
Individual Contribution Limit*	\$250*
Campaign Spending Limits Primary Election Only**	\$75,000
Combined Campaign Spending Limits for Primary and General Election	\$150,000

*\* Limit does not include the value of Democracy Vouchers.*

*\*\* Vouchers exceeding the primary election spending limit are not redeemed unless the candidate advances to the general election.*

4. Contributions cannot be solicited or accepted from the following:
  - a. Those who have received more than \$250,000 in the last two years through a City contract.
  - b. Those who have spent or paid someone more than \$5,000 to lobby the City in the last 12 months.
  - c. A political action committee, political party, or any organization that makes an independent expenditure for or against any City of Seattle candidate within the same election cycle.
5. Candidates may not solicit money for or on behalf of any political action committee, political party, or any organization that makes an independent expenditure for or against any City of Seattle candidate within the same election cycle.
6. Participate in three public debates, as defined in SEEC Administrative Rule 16, for the primary and general election each.

---

**Contact the Democracy Voucher Program for more information:**

(206) 727-8855

democracyvoucher@seattle.gov

seattle.gov/democracyvoucher